

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
MONITORING WET CONTACT TOUCHPADS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Method and apparatus for monitoring wet contact touchpads
5 where the opening of the contacts and the closing of the
contacts of a wet contact touchpad are monitored and sensed
by a timer/controller. The wet contact touchpad forms a
capacitor which is charged to maintain a low voltage when the
contacts are open. Upon reaching a predetermined decreasing
10 voltage charge across the wet contact touchpad, the voltage
status is further scrutinized by voltage sampling to determine
when a contact closure or a contact break has occurred. Such
determination is carried out in multiple cycle fashion by
quickly and repeatedly introducing a charge voltage,
15 discontinuing the charge voltage, and sampling the charged
voltage to determine a decrease or an increase. A decrease
indicates a wet contact touchpad closed circuit and an
increase indicates a wet contact touchpad open circuit.
Sampling of the increasing or decreasing charges determines
20 timed occurrences accurately.